



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

NEXT BORACAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

When faced by the remote town of Caramoran Bay with its stunning feature of a back-to-back beach is just one of a spread of pristine islands with powdery white sand. One of these, Gota beach, is the site of the French edition's eighth season of the wildly popular reality TV show, "Survivor." According to Gen. Luis Raymond Villalante, the local government will implement a P200-million development plan in the peninsula town to include the building of roads and an airport. Unlike Boracay, Caramoran will not be overdeveloped, Villalante says, to keep its virgin beauty intact.

4th-class town well on the way to celeb status

By Ephraim Aguilar
Dagupan Southern Luzon

CARAMORAN, CAMARINES SUR—IT was not too long ago that only beach-pickers and the local kids of this remote peninsula's pristine beaches.

But the fourth-class municipality is expected to achieve celebrity status soon enough, with foreign productions completing filming and development projects in place. Even now it is being touted as the next Boracay.

About 10 million TV viewers in Europe and Canada are expected to watch the French edition of "Survivor," which was shot entirely on

4TH-CLASS AN

Congress probes Meralco

For antitrust law violation, say GMA allies

By Gil C. Cebalante Jr.,
Norman Borlindors,
Michael Leo Ullas and Abigail Nila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives and in the Senate are out to draw first blood on the Lopez-owned Manila Electric Co. next week with hearings that would center on Meralco's high power rates as a possible result of violations of antitrust laws.

Sen. Miriam Defensora Santiago yesterday told reporters the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JPCPC) would look on Monday into Meralco's power purchases from Lopez-owned independent power producers (IPPs).

Santiago chairs the President with the President's son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, who also announced yesterday that the House energy committee, which he heads, had scheduled its own hearing on Tuesday on Meralco's exorbitant rates.

CONGRESS AN



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY Dave Paul, regional director of the Humane Society of the United States, has been conducting training sessions for Filipino veterinarians, rescue volunteers and animal control officers on emergency preparedness and proper handling of stray animals. He has 28 years of experience rescuing domestic and wild animals.

Include pets in all disaster plans, veterinarians urge

By Teresa M. Salazar

THE DEVOTION THAT SOME PEOPLE lavish on their equally loyal pet animals comes to the fore during disasters, according to an American veterinarian who has been training an anti-

mal hospital with round-the-clock emergency coverage for 35 years.

Betty N. Kellings has been witness to such occasions, including Superhurricane "Katrina," which wreaked havoc in New Orleans in 2005.

INCLUDE AN

Burma's military blocks int'l aid, disaster experts

YANGON, BURMA—INTERVENTION of aid has begun trickling into Burma (Myanmar), even as disaster experts from various international agencies warned in London, Monday, that Burma's secretive military rules.

A UN official on Wednesday declared the cyclone-stricken landlocked delta a "major, major disaster" with corpses floating in flooded areas and enormous challenges in getting aid to millions of homeless people dying from hunger and disease.

Five days after Cyclone Nargis hit, leaving more than 80,000 people dead or missing in one of the world's worst natural disasters, the full scope of the tragedy has yet to be known, with many towns simply washed away.

"One town name across thousands of people killed in one township, with piles of rotting bodies lying on the ground," said Andrew Kirkwood of Save the Children, one of the few foreign aid groups allowed to operate inside Burma.

Kirkwood said his group had received reports that survivors of Saturday's cyclone in Pyawbada, one of the towns in the hard-hit area delta in Burma's south, still had not received food or water.

"Assistance hasn't reached them yet and they are dying," Kirkwood said, adding that more of the 41,000 people

GMA sending 15-member medical mission

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is sending in the next 48 hours a 15-member medical team to Burma (Myanmar) to join a massive international effort to help victims of a devastating cyclone.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Limina yesterday said Mr. Arroyo instructed the health and foreign affairs departments to organize the team of doctors and nurses. He said Burmese authorities had been asked what medicines were urgently needed.

Also yesterday, about 50 Filipino premarin who marched outside the Myanmar Embassy in Makati City demanded that Burma postpone this week's planned constitutional referendum and allow the unrestricted entry of international relief for cyclone victims.

"While the people are so worried about survival in the midst of this disaster, the junta is now preoccupied thinking of how to pursue its referendum."

GMA SENDING AN

Obama wins big in N. Carolina; Clinton barely takes Indiana

WASHINGTON—BARACK Obama stood almost to becoming the first black presidential nominee of a major US political party easily defeating Hillary Rodham Clinton in the North Carolina Democratic primary and barely losing to her in Indiana.

The long and often bitter contest appeared to be nearing its climax, with Clinton, a 46-year-old first-term senator from Illinois, mounting a last-minute effort to fend off the most powerful caucus in American politics.

Clinton, a senator from New York, signaled her determination to fight on but her prospects seemed dim.

In Sunday's primaries, Ob-

OBAMA AN

Now, 'Ready' to get out of harm's way

By Yolande Orjeda
Dagupan General Editor

DALEI, AUSA—ARE FILIPINOS ready to get out of harm's way if and when more strikes, flash floods, landslides, ground

ruptures, liquefaction or tsunamis occur?

Rather than give sweeping answers, government experts have been providing explicit information instead to help communities come up with a more localized

way of dealing with natural violence and ensuring the safety of lives and property.

Under Project "Ready," also called the Hazard Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community-Based Disaster Risk Manage-

ment, detailed maps are produced for every hazard that is likely to hit a province based on its natural hazards, active fault lines, past events and other factors.

The maps also show the critical

NOT: READY AN



AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS The giant electronic ticker is now up on the facade of the broader Life Building on Ayala Avenue corner Plaza del Risco.

GOODNEWS AN



Bright idea: Lock solons inside House

By TJ Bargaño

PERIOD BY COLLEAGUES WHO pull disappearing acts while in session, a congressman on Tuesday proposed that the presiding officer of the House of Representatives go into lockdown after the roll call to maintain decorum and ensure passage of key legislation.

"We close the door after roll

SENATE AN

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Light private vehicles coming to and from EDSA are advised to take Gil Puyat Avenue, to and from Manila/Passay: take Gil Puyat Avenue, left Tordesillas, take Zuellig Passay; From Ayala Avenue/Gil Puyat to Legaspi Village: right turn Ayala Avenue, right turn Amoroso St., right turn covered canal to Amalaz Avenue; From Ayala Avenue/Gil Puyat to Salcedo Village: take Gil Puyat Avenue, right turn Tordesillas St.; From EDSA/Ayala Avenue to Legaspi Village: take EDSA, right turn Amalaz Avenue, right turn Paseo de Roxas; From EDSA/Ayala Avenue to Salcedo Village: take Ayala Avenue, right turn Apartment ridge, left turn Paseo de Roxas, right turn Villar St.

Struggle for control of Meralco perils Napocor sale

A STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL has broken out in the country's largest power utility after government position on its bid to sell its assets, and whether to use the sale as a vehicle for privatization of the power sector.

Both private and government firms have been vying for the sale of the assets of the state-owned Meralco. The sale of Meralco's assets is a key element in the government's plan to privatize the power sector, and the sale of Meralco's assets is a key element in the government's plan to privatize the power sector.

Chair Winston Gonsuabangan said the sale of Meralco's assets is a key element in the government's plan to privatize the power sector, and the sale of Meralco's assets is a key element in the government's plan to privatize the power sector.

The matter is likely to come to a head at a shareholders' meeting on May 27.

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Delos said that in a public hearing, the government did not want to take control of Meralco. "We lost for the country," he said for the past, but for the country, it made the wrong decision.

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Congress probes Meralco; focus on antitrust violation

CONGRESS said that the President would investigate charges that Meralco's assets were sold to private firms at a price below market value.

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Now, 'Ready' to get out of harm's way; information goes local

REPORT of the state that may be the most important landmark in the history of the Philippines is the sale of Meralco's assets to private firms at a price below market value.

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EMPOWER LOCAL GOV'TS is the theme of the 2008 National Development Conference, which will be held in Manila on May 27.

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Shocked survivors emerge from disaster zone

LAURET, BURMA.—THOUSANDS of shocked survivors of the deadly cyclone that struck Burma (Myanmar) are flooding in this week, rubbing through floodwaters in search of food, shelter, and medical supplies, as Agency for Overseas Development (AOD) says on Wednesday.

The coast of Laorin, 500 km from a community of 80,000 people before January's disaster, is itself devastated, with virtually no food or fresh water. Residents are shivering, missing supplies of cold rice, no food items.

Laorin, which lies at the mouth of the Irrawaddy river delta, which is the heart of Cyclone Nargis' fury, was completely submerged as waves moved more than 100 km (60 miles) high, covering over the tops of trees, according to residents.

"The people have no clothes left on their backs. They have never seen anything like this before," one woman said. A few of the desperate survivors seeking help from rescuing villagers

have never actually seen the sea. "They have seen the sea, but they have nothing to eat. They don't know what the future will be," he said.

Around the river, thousands of people and animals, already missing in the intense tropical heat, washed up in mud-colored floodwaters around.

More than 22,000 people were killed and nearly twice as many people missing since the storm hit, with most of the victims in the delta region, according to military government.

"We can't sleep at night, because we can hear people shouting at night. Maybe there are the ghosts of the victims," another resident told AFP.

Authorities have put up up emergency shelters for the people, residents said.

The coast said AFP that the military had sent a ship to search

near stranded villages, but that the coast was now back near Laorin after it ran out of fuel.

The UN, including the World Food Program and the Christian relief group World Vision, have arrived in the zone, but so far they have only delivered some humanitarian relief, residents said.

"We need emergency resources," a local doctor told AFP, adding that medicines are already running out from Laorin because of the late military operations.

Some survivors appeared to have cultural channels from during the storm, but lack of food and clean water posed the greatest threat to the town.

Survivors were searching for contacts, whom they had met during the flood.

"Thousands of people are in a difficult situation. They need emergency assistance. They are waiting for assistance, for food and shelter. Their main concern is the food," one woman said of survivors waiting in the zone.

Burma's military blocks int'l aid, disaster experts

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A WOMAN tries to keep afloat in the floodwaters of the Irrawaddy river in Laorin, Burma (Myanmar), on Wednesday. Cyclone Nargis hit Burma's biggest city but no challenges in reaching stranded people of the flood and clean water, posing the greatest threat to the town.

more than double the normal price. A 25 kg bag of rice doubled in price to 45,000 Kyats (3,000 US dollars), an astronomical price in a country where many people live on less than \$1 a day.

Coasting off, another boat was seen, apparently disabled in place.

Were credibility questioned

The cyclone came a week before a key referendum on a proposed constitution backed by the army.

Some radio said Laorin's rice would be delayed until May 24 in all of 47 households in the Laorin zone and some households in the Irrawaddy delta. But a spokesman for the military said that the military had no food or clean water, posing the greatest threat to the town.

The situation there could worsen.

GMA sending 15-man medical mission

Cyclone Nargis struck over 22,000 people, but left about a half a million people in a dire situation. GMA is sending a 15-man medical mission to the zone.

The mission is headed by Dr. Jose A. Dela Cruz, a GMA employee who has been in the zone since the cyclone struck.

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5-M people shortages

Much of the Irrawaddy delta, where most of the trapped people are, has been cut off from the rest of the country. The military government has blocked international aid from reaching the zone.

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The military says it is not allowing the zone to be cut off from the rest of the country, and aid groups were struggling to deliver relief goods.

The AFP said it had begun distributing aid to Laorin. "We are sending relief goods to the zone," it said. "This is a major relief operation."

Smuggling to deliver relief

The United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) says as many as 1 million people may have been hit by the cyclone, with some villages almost totally destroyed. The WFP is sending relief goods to the zone.

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No to US offer of help

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Food prices double

Crisis conditions forced some households to double the price of rice, charcoal and other goods.

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Postpone referendum

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Reliable procedure

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Breaking the impasse

THE INQUIRER HAS SUPPORTED THE SEARCH for lasting peace in Mindanao since its years. But of our support has never the duty to take national advertisement to ask where military action threatened to undermine or overwhelm different peace initiatives. Thus, we view the current impasse in the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—referred to as MILF—in a different light.

EDITORIAL
In Malaysia's decision to bring its presidential term, some as early as 10 days ago—with great delay. At the same time, we view Malaysia's apparent taking of sides with great concern.

The chief Malaysian minister, Osman Abdul Razak, has blamed the Philippine government for the impasse in the current domain issue. "It really boils down to the political will of the [Philippine] government," Osman said. "If the government wants the talks to progress, it can do it. It can think creatively. But if it wants to stick to the Constitution, things will not move," Osman told the Associated Press last month.

Even Malaysia Foreign Minister Anwar Ibrahim said his cooperation with the Philippine government, when he announced that the phased withdrawal of the Malaysian troops from Iligan was being completed as expected. "The thing is, we have to go along with them from both sides. But from my part is not making the effort, we will have to wait and see."

It is clear to anyone following the peace process in Mindanao that our neighbor's chief diplomat was referring to the Philippine government.

It was left to Malaysia's top general, General Goh Keng Swee, to blame the matter with our chief diplomat as well as to be mentioned. The fact that the Malaysian High Commissioner, General Goh, told the Philippine Defense Force, told Manila last week: "We don't simply withdraw. We're just withdrawing."

Asks also accused his hands in both the peace and in the military camps in Mindanao that Malaysia was "not acknowledging the power process." The said it, we will be seen in the end.

But, no one diplomat the clearly obvious impact of the peace of the Mindanao can grow from the knowledge of Mindanao. Thus, the MILF has been serving in the domain since 2004, and has played a crucial role in determining the number of armed combatants in the government soldiers and MILF rebels. The Muslim consequence of the Malaysian policy would be a marked increase in armed combatants, with increasing conflict in the conflict in the Mindanao.

Continued violence possibly be viewed as making the peace process positively? Given current conditions, there is no other way to understand Malaysia's position but as an abandonment, in part at least, of the peace process.

Thus, there is no other way to monitor the opinion of the Philippine government in the peace process in Mindanao. The Philippines government is to blame for the current impasse but as a general understanding of the Philippine position and the limits of international diplomacy.

A spokesman for the presidential adviser on the peace process said in Manila. "We believe that does not consider why the MILF has the Government of the Republic of the Philippines has to address the current Philippine Constitution as framework for negotiations with the MILF." We have continuously expressed to him that the perceived delay in the MILF's extension of the dialogue to address constitutional issues in the current domain agreement.

The presidential adviser, Gen. Juan Duma, firmly stated that one of the government's chief concerns was "implementability" of any peace agreement. The agreement, he said, must be able to "attend the rest of constitutional reform."

We agree. The Chairman of Mindanao and the leaders of the MILF must understand that, for the Philippines to have, the Constitution is no mere document. It is no mere technical matter. Yes, it is possible to "think creatively" especially on a matter as serious and as critical as national peace. But Mindanao, in facilitating that very process of negotiation, must not let the Philippine government and its Constitution, on the other hand.

We also join the call for the Philippine to meet the mandate of its 1987 constitution. Sometimes the toughest part of an extended journey is right after the end.



The skills crunch

VIEWPOINT

JOAN J. HERNANDEZ

In 2007, the Investment Intelligence Unit (IIU) conducted a survey on the skills of the Philippine workforce. The survey found that the Philippine workforce is "not ready for the 21st century."

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The World

Editor Laurence B. Gooch

China virus outbreak claims 28th victim

BEIJING—THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN confirmed to have died from a highly contagious virus in China rose to 28 on Wednesday as authorities announced a "new outbreak" across the country was looming.

Hand, foot and mouth disease claimed the lives of a 2-year-old girl and a 3-year-old boy on Tuesday, lifting the total number of fatalities to 28, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The children died in the central province of Hubei and the neighboring Hunan region, the disease hotbeds had been reported in those areas.

China reported the number of people infected, the vast majority of them believed to be children, also rose by around 4,000 to 15,776, authorities attributed to difficulties in gathering data points over how widespread the disease.

"The country is gearing up for a se-

rious wave against a new outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease with the number of cases this year continuing to rise," the state-run China Daily news paper said.

Word of the deaths had begun with the Internet-based newsmagazine 71, which can read to hand, foot and mouth disease.

The Chinese government declared a national alert as the weekend over the

virus, which has spread throughout eastern, central and southern China as well as through East Asia.

Beijing also has set up a high-level task force headed by Health Minister Chen Xia to coordinate nationwide control efforts.

The virus first appeared in large numbers in southern China in early March but was not made public until last week, prompting state press to conceal local officials of being too slow to

reporting the outbreak.

China met the World Health Organization, World Bank representatives, World Trade Organization, on Wednesday with the two sides agreeing to cooperate on limiting the virus at check, the China Daily reported.

Authorities said on the weekend that 28 outbreak of hand, foot and mouth—common virus in China—has hit the health threat in the Beijing Capital Airport. **AFP**

Antigov't protesters paralyze Beirut

BEIRUT—SUPPORTERS OF Lebanon's Hezbollah blocked major roads in Beirut with burning tires Monday, paralyzing the city and deepening the pro-faction group's conflict with the UN-backed government.

They set ablaze old cars and tires to block the main road to Beirut International airport, where air traffic was suspended because of a strike by staff asking pay to follow new government-led demand higher wages.

The Hezbollah-led opposition has blocked the strike.

Hezbollah loyal in Hezbollah, a political group with a guerrilla army and backing from Iran and Syria, also blocked access to Beirut's main commercial district and the usually busy sea port.

The seven main ministries of an anti-government group last year that led to anti-UN demands were blocked with stones in 1975-90 and now a new wave of violence is raging, slightly exceeding one person, a security source said.

In Lebanon's deepest political rift since the civil war, Hezbollah has been leading a campaign against Prime Minister Fouad Stoufi's government since January 2006.

"The conflict, which has left Lebanon without a president for five months, requires a broader power struggle between the foreign backers of the rival camps."

The government is supported by Arab states including Saudi Arabia, where the anti-Syria have been poisoned by the Lebanese crisis.

Tensions between the government and Hezbollah continued sharply on Tuesday. The advance accused the group of violating Lebanon's sovereignty by opening its own communication network and installing spy cameras in the airport.

It also accused the head of Beirut airport security to another challenge in Hezbollah.

The group said the anti-government network was part of a security apparatus and had played a major role in its war with Israel in 2006.

Provoked by the government's move, Hezbollah was "tired of its role" in the crisis, and Damascus said, "there is no Hezbollah in Lebanon," the group said. "The last has been turned up," he said, adding that there was scope for violence.

But it probably was going to avoid violence, a conflict source in Beirut said.

"Things could get very ugly but I don't think they will spend us out of hand," added Paul Salame, director of the Geneva Middle East Center in Beirut. "Everyone is scared and angry." The rival camps have traded accusations that they have been aiming and missing their missiles in case of conflict. **Reuters**



AP/WIDEWORLD

A crowd of rioters and others gathered in an anti-Chinese demonstration in the city of Shanghai on May 4 in China. The explosion, the first in thousands of years, spread to thousands of people and killed at least 28 in the city. The rioters are protesting against the Chinese government's policies.

US executes first inmate since end of moratorium



AP/WIDEWORLD

ATLANTA—GEORGIA EXECUTED A CON- VICTED murderer on Tuesday, the first US inmate to be put to death since the Supreme Court ended a de facto moratorium on capital punishment last month.

William Earl Lynd, 40, was put to death by lethal injection at a prison in Jackson, central Georgia, at 7 p.m. for shooting his girlfriend Greg Moore three times in the head and face in December 1996, authorities said.

Lynd killed his victim in a shallow grave near Tallapoosa County, near the border, while driving to Ohio, he shot and killed in-

other women but he has not been convicted of that crime, according to the state attorney general's office.

Opponents who oppose the death penalty held demonstrations in five cities in Georgia at the time of the execution, as well as outside the prison.

Lynd's lawyers have appealed to the state's Supreme Court for a stay of execution, arguing the officers who described the murder scene to jurors exaggerated what they saw.

The court was not expected to rule on the

may before Tuesday afternoon, according to court spokeswoman Jane Haines.

Had the experts described the scene accurately, Lynd would not have been charged with aggravated murder and kidnapping, crimes that warrant the death penalty in Georgia, according to Laura Mays of Amnesty International.

"This is the easy world of death penalty cases. The toughest go pretty much down to the wire," said Mays, adding that a final appeal to the US Supreme Court might also be possible.

Reuters

Medvedev sworn in as Russia's new president

MOSCOW—DMITRY MEDVEDEV WAS sworn in as president in a solemn ceremony in the Kremlin's main room on Wednesday, inheriting in an unprecedented period of dual rule with his predecessor Vladimir Putin, who becomes prime minister.

Medvedev, a 41-year-old former corporate lawyer and longtime Putin ally, placed his hand on a oak, before a crowd of the Russian constitution to take the oath of office before 2,000 invited guests.

Witnesses earlier from the Kremlin said that Medvedev had received the Russian people for their trust and support, encouraging them to support Medvedev and wishing him well.

Putin named Medvedev as his political successor last December, ending his reign in the March poll.

But the Kremlin leader will retain some key political influence after quitting, both in his role as prime minister and as head of the ruling United Russia party which controls parliament.

The transition ceremony in St. George's Kremlin Palace broadly followed the pattern set in 2000, when Putin was sworn in, allowing officials to make continuity and the smooth transition of power.

Access was not granted to foreign media.

The constitution, adopted under Medvedev, gives the president greater powers, including the right to define Russia's foreign and domestic policy, appoint key ministers and control key security and defense agencies.

Putin, in his time in office, further limited Kremlin power by appointing the right to name judges elected regional leaders and making several appointments.

Putin has said he will not renege on his promise to Medvedev with whom he shares a common view on Russia's future. But Russian leaders, dominated by high-powered rulers such as Leonid Brezhnev and the Soviet Union, have a long history of making promises.

Putin's first move, however, was to appoint his powerful prime minister as head of the government of the law.

Reuters

Journalists gather in Bali for global dialogue

BALI, INDONESIA—OVER A 100-odd journalists worldwide converged here to discuss unusual issues concerning their profession.

Dr. N. Husein Wicakana, Indonesia's deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, was enthusiastically impressed with the steady rise of journalists' participation in the event dubbed as Global Java Media Dialogue 3 (GJMD-3).

"The rise of participation from year to year is very encouraging. We began with about 50 participants in 2004 and about 90 in 2005, and this year over a hundred," Wicakana said during the opening news briefing on Monday.

Indonesia is one of the few countries to host the series of GJMD. The other seven countries are Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Libya and Syria.

Indonesia's Wicakana said the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Affairs would be the organizing institution, including media, worldwide, but praised opinions that the series of meetings among journalists would find solutions to address critical issues to better address the worsening working conditions of journalists worldwide.

He said that journalists were not just contributing news but also as news working conditions but as well as economic conditions.

Like Indonesia, Norway is also con-



AP/WIDEWORLD

QUINCESENTENNIAL MOMENT This 1917 oil on canvas by French Impressionist Claude Monet entitled "Le Pont de Chambray-le-Val (Argentan)" was sold for \$14.1 million on Tuesday at Christie's Auction House in New York. It was the most expensive painting sold in 2005.

ing Global News."

These major issues are linked into the small group discussions focusing on Reporting Standards in Case of Disaster, Reporting Standards in Sec-

ond International, Global Reporting, International Trade and Foreign and Climate Change and Human Rights, and later on Terrorism, Justice, Religion, and the Environment.

Prosecutor to meet with Austrian man in incest case

VIENNA—A PROSECUTOR PLANNED to meet on Wednesday for the first time with the Austrian man accused of imprisoning his daughter in a cellar for 24 years and torturing her seven children, according to an Austrian newspaper.

The meeting between prosecutor Christian Birkhofer and the suspect, Josef Fiedl, will take place in the prison in the Lower Austrian city of St. Pölten, where the 73-year-old is being held, and prosecution spokeswoman Barbara Birkhofer.

Birkhofer said it was unclear if Fiedl would agree to answer questions. Authorities were reportedly looking up and coping his daughter but has since remained silent.

Fiedl has been previously charged and is accused in previous decades. He has been found guilty, but he is preparing an insanity defense.

Chief Investigator Peter Fiedl will continue to be continuing to all through the day's proceedings for reasons, adding there may be some "yellow pages" (a code word for a case) that may be required to be examined. It was unclear whether the case would find anything "dramatic" in such cases, he said.

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the luster of life.

Prudentiallife has traditionally shared its blessings with the elderly, orphans, underprivileged. On its



Past Year, commitments

responsible towards the family, the human community and the Earth. Caring for creation through creativity and conservation completes Prudentiallife's corporate social responsibility through its commitment to education, healthcare, livelihood and community development.



Prudentiallife reserves its service with an environment advocacy as



COMMITMENT



goth Foundation Activities

May 2 Kapamilya Day (Enchanted Kingdom)
May 8 Foundation Day

May 12-13 Prudentiallife (Habitat for Humanity)

Day 1 - Thanksgiving Mass
Day 2 - Caring for Common Good (Habitat for Humanity)

• Open Park / City Tour
• A Day's Worth of Giving

Day 3 • Open Park / City Tour
• Tagalog Tour

• The Luster of Life Golf Night

May 15-20 CIB Anniversary Week

May 20: 1st Silver Tea, Cherry Open Golf (Golfing Golf & Goody Club)



Prudentiallife
The Luster of Life



SPORTS

Celtics defense shuts down LeBron, Cavs



BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS SHUT DOWN LEBRON JAMES TO GRIND OUT A 76-72 WIN OVER THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS IN THEIR EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINAL SERIES-OPENER ON WEDNESDAY.

Jason's defense contained James, holding him to just 12 points and forcing him into 12 turnovers.

Kevin Garnett scored 28 points to lead the Celtics, who beat Guttery two to the best-of-seven in-season Thursday.

Back defense struggled to get off the floor, with Boston's Paul Pierce scoring only four points and Ray Allen having little position to a game for the first time since 1997.

REUTERS
Boston's defense contained James, holding him to just 12 points and forcing him into 12 turnovers.

LeBron James had a triple-double with nine rebounds and nine assists in the last NBA game held Tuesday.

"He had a tough night, and he is not used to it," Celtics coach Mike Brown said. "Knowing him, he will definitely bounce back in Game 2."

James was disappointed, especially after a strong opening round series against Philadelphia.

"I missed a lot of shots (in Game 1)," James said.

"I was just one of those nights," James said.

Both teams were over-prime, with the Celtics committing 21 turnovers to 17 for the Cavs.

Kobe: MVP trophy a team award

LOS ANGELES—Kobe BRYANT kept saying he couldn't have won his first Most Valuable Player award without the many contributions of his teammates.

"This is not an individual award," he said Tuesday. "The special thing about this award is we have done it together."

Finally, Kobe Bryant was named to win his third MVP trophy.

"That's a typical spoiled athlete moment," Bryant replied, suppressing a grin. "I've never happened in a basketball and again in the locker."

Everyone laughed, of course. And why not? It's been a decade since he won the Los Angeles Lakers' first championship since 1980.

Bryant was based on opening night and three more daily updates on winning a possible third championship.

"It's been an emotional roller coaster. It's been a kind of a journey," he said in a news conference attended by his teammates, club officials, his wife and two daughters.

"It's a really good night. The perfect ending would be for us to hold a championship trophy at the end of it."

"I can't think three years enough. There are my guys, those are my brothers. I can't get ready for tomorrow."

The Lakers try to take a 2-0 lead against Utah in their Western Conference semifinal on Wednesday night.

Bryant will receive the MVP trophy from commissioner David Stern before the game.

Bryant has won the MVP trophy in 2005 and 2007.

After a "MVP MVP" shout-out from the crowd, Bryant said he is "definitely right."

"I'll be more specific," he said. "I got some people thinking about it. It's been a long trip. The kind of journey through the years with all the people here."

Bryant entered his 12th NBA season on Tuesday night as the league's two-time defending scoring champion. Despite being regarded as one of the league's best players for the past several years, he had never finished above third in the voting.

Bryant received 62 first-place votes and 1,100 points in the fourth round. He was followed by Steve Nash (21 and 644), Russell Westbrook (113 and 670) and Cleveland's LeBron James (11 and 630).

UE Warriors get back at DLSU Archers

LAUREL MONTE (The Times, Los Angeles)
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
4 p.m. - 10 p.m. - 10 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST PHILIPPINES GOY back at De La Salle when it's in the 2nd Philippine V-League Division 1 Cup. Marikina (UEP) is a second league in the Warriors in a 60-40 victory over the Green Archers, presiding in their first meeting since La Salle beat UE for the UAAP crown last year.

With the game tied at 40-40 with 12 seconds to go, Archers made the ball from JV Cans, and scored on the basket for a 40-42 lead.

UE Warriors were there to see the game in the Arena in San Juan for the Province, who picked up their second win in Group A.

"The Warriors want all their 10 elimination round matches in the 20th UAAP season only to lose to the finals to the Archers via a 2-0 sweep."

UEP had 10 fouls and 10 fouls, 10 fouls, while DLSU had 10.

UEP dropped to 2-0 in Group A. The Archers dropped to 2-0 in Group A.

In the nightcap, Archers edged University of the Philippines, 65-61, in their first meeting since the 2008 UAAP season.

With internal financial leading the charge, the Warriors, broke a 10-10 tie at 10-10, in the first half.

"The game dropped to 2-0 in Group A. The Archers dropped to 2-0 in Group A."

UEP had 10 fouls and 10 fouls, 10 fouls, while DLSU had 10.

Marathon Olango swim challenge set Saturday

By Jan Navarro

THE OLANGO CHALLENGE IN CEBU on May 16 has been sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association as its latest international program for marathon swimming.

Then president Mark Joseph said the top feature of the Olango challenge, a 100-kilometer swimmer-swim from the San Juan wharf in Olango Island to Olango La Marina, will be topped up.

marathon swim conditions for the right swim national team.

Marathon swimming market in Olympic debut in the 2012 London games, is off in southeast Asia a regular spot in the 2008 Asian Beach Games held in Bali, Indonesia in October, Joseph added.

Marathon swimming in the beach games will have a distance of five kilometers, and will be held in the Philippines, and will be held in the Philippines, and will be held in the Philippines.

as, however, plan to stretch the swim to seven hours.

"The Olango challenge will (also) hopefully become an international event," he said.

The swim challenge also hopes to raise funds for more 20,000 people in the island and establish Olango's degraded marine life under a program spearheaded by the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association.

Joseph said that for every swimmer that crosses the 100-kilometer Olango Channel, a corporate leader would make a monetary pledge to support the imperishable beauty of Olango.

The swim will also join the fund raising activities of the swim event along with fellow teams Olympian Aldo Thomas, local hero Sam Alonzo, and other swimmers.



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USJR's Simbajon knows how to get the job done

By Cedric E. Reyes

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UEP dropped to 2-0 in Group A. The Archers dropped to 2-0 in Group A.

In the nightcap, Archers edged University of the Philippines, 65-61, in their first meeting since the 2008 UAAP season.

With internal financial leading the charge, the Warriors, broke a 10-10 tie at 10-10, in the first half.



USJR's Simbajon knows how to get the job done.

Overwhelming
"It's really overwhelming that I got appointed here," Simbajon, whose older brother, Michael, is a former Santa Fe High School basketball player, added.

More than his attraction, though, Simbajon believes the endorsement provided by the USJR will go a long way in strengthening their team.

"I'm a good person. It's a good way to determine my strengths and weaknesses," the USJR skipper said of their role in the endorsement. "In Cebu, we are always the Diamond team, we are always the Diamond team, we are always the Diamond team."

[illegible]

Subsidies to state corporations exceeded programmed level in Q1

March figure hits P974 million, up from P346 million in February

By Daric C. Domingo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT has exceeded more subsidies to government-owned or controlled corporations for the first quarter.

Based on the latest report from the Bureau of the Treasury, subsidies to government-owned and controlled corporations reached P2.1 billion from January to March, overshooting the P1.65 billion programmed for the period.

For the month of March alone, subsidies to state-owned corporations amounted to P974 million, rising from the P346 million disbursed in February.

Of the total subsidies extended in the first three months, 54 percent was extended to the 13 major non-financial government corporations being monitored by the Finance Department. The remaining 46 percent went to other government corporations that are not monitored by the DOE.

For years, the departments of Budget and Finance have been inflating subsidies to state-owned GOCCs despite the government's fiscal deficit position. These subsidies are usually extended to corporations with alleged specializations.

For this full year, the government hopes

Philamlife 2007 profit up 15.8%

By Daric C. Domingo

PHILIPPINE AMERICAN LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO. (Philamlife), the largest of the American investments Group, yesterday reported a 15.8-percent rise in its 2007 net income to P4.8 billion from year-ago level.

Philamlife, however, was a tougher year ahead given rising inflation and interest rates, the continuing financial market volatility and a higher loan burden sought by the government on insurance companies. Philamlife president and CEO Jose Cabat Jr. yesterday said it was challenging to sell investment products in an environment where households were facing declining disposable income due to fast rising consumption.

The 2007 profit report was already set of foreign exchange losses of P0.5 billion. The profit 20 percent rise against the dollar also proved the valuation of Philamlife's foreign currency-denominated assets.

The total net premium of Philamlife's P775 billion to consolidated funds was lowered to foreign currency-denominated assets.

In the meantime, gross premium collections reached P34.7 billion in 2007, up by 13.9 percent over a year ago. Life insurance operations generated P7.4 billion in net income, up by 37.4 percent from year-ago level.

Philamlife remains the largest sales force in the industry as over 7,000 agents.

"We continued to receive a solid contribution from our base customer segmentation, which generated P1.3 billion in net income last year," Costa said.

Philamlife's overall funds subsidiary, Philam Asset Management, Inc., posted P224.5 million in net income before tax in 2007, 5 percent lower than year-ago level.

From previous years, Costa also reported that 2007 was a leanest year for the company as assets under management resulted a record high of P1.4 billion consisting of 30,000 retail and institutional accounts.

GOINGS-ON

Techco-Asia marks 25th year

Techco-Asia Construction & Development Inc., one of the country's leading developers, today marks its 25th founding anniversary at 10th Baker Street in Tandang Sora.

The celebration will be highlighted by a thanksgiving Mass and a recognition dinner to honor its team. The event will be capped with a talk by Philamlife to its employees and families on May 9.

The company was founded in 1983 as a construction firm to provide affordable, accessible and stylish housing packages in the mid-level market.

LG takes up 14.9%

LG ELECTRONICS has announced its consolidated earnings results for the first quarter of 2008, with sales jumping 10.3 percent on pace to \$11.347 billion.

Both sales and operating profit were higher than last quarter. Operating profit at all business divisions, mainly from the robust sales in handheld and PC power electronics. Operating profit for year hit \$204 million, which made the profit margin at 5.4 percent, 5.1 percent point higher than the previous year.

to put a cap on the direct subsidies to state corporations at P10 billion, or half of the disbursements made last year despite a more challenging environment brought about by on-going crisis.

Based on a fiscal program to be submitted by the Department of Finance to the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Commission, currently subsidies may be kept at P10 billion in the second to the last quarter, up from the P1.65 billion programmed for the first quarter.

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to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi

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2nd Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
3rd Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
4th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
5th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
6th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
7th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
8th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
9th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX
10th Prize	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX	1 Mitsubishi FUZION GLX

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Q. 1500	P 52,800.00	P 44,176.00
Q. 1800	P 52,800.00	P 53,634.00

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Big jump in RP mango exports to China seen

8 firms get Beijing OK to start shipment this month

By Amy B. Ramos

BEIJING HAS GIVEN THE GO-ALIGHT for eight Philippine companies to export mangoes to China starting this month, the Department of Agriculture said. This is expected to benefit about 2.5 million local mango growers, it added.

The eight mango exporters are: Universal Harvest Corp., Malabon; 2000 Inc., Paldar; Sun Agri Marketing Corp., Davao; Sun Agri Products Inc., Davao; Philippine Orchard Inc., Marikina; Marketing Corp., Marikina; Marketing Corp., Marikina; and Marikina Marketing Corp.

Agriculture Secretary Arsenio C. Puyat said that with this development, mango exports to China could increase significantly in 2008, from 500,000 metric tons last year.

China earlier limited its importation of mangoes from the Philippines due to phytosanitary concerns.

Beijing relaxed the phytosanitary requirement in a letter sent on April 18 to Agriculture Undersecretary for Special Concerns Ramonito R. Roldan-Peña. It said that the Chinese government's economic and commercial interests.

Puyat said Beijing gave the go-ahead after officials from its Trade and Agriculture for Quality Improvement, Agriculture and Quarantine (AQRI) visited Manila last month to check on food safety and treatment facilities for Philippine mango exports.

The mango exporters want to export their mangoes to the Chinese quarantine officials for recognizing the efforts that they have done to make treatment facilities for Philippine mangoes at par with international standards, Puyat said.

He noted that Beijing's move would further strengthen the bilateral ties between the Philippines and China.

"The exporters have fully complied with the requirements for extended but water treatment as specified last year by inspectors and technical staff from AQRI," he added.

Beijing's move to the treatment facilities set up by the mango exporters is very timely because this is now the peak of the mango harvest season, he added.

Data from the DA showed that around 500,000 metric tons of mangoes were exported to the mainland during the peak months of March and April. It expects total mango production in 2008 to reach 600,000 MT, lower by 20 percent than the output in 2007.

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Globe subscriber base growth starts picking up

By Rex T. Ochoa

GLOBE TELECOM AND THE GROWTH in its subscriber base was starting to pick up after a slight dip in the first quarter due to several disruptions and the rising inflation rate.

Globe president and CEO Marcelo C. Adnan is said to be an optimist believing that subscriber base in March and April had shown signs of recovery.

"We had about 400,000 subscribers for April," Adnan told reporters. He did not give an estimate on Globe's prospective subscriber base for end June.

For the first quarter, Globe's Q1 2008 base subscribers expanded by 26 percent year-on-year to 22.3 million. The company's net and prepaid brand, TM, saw the pace of subscriber base by end June.

The combined net additions for Globe and TM reached 960,000. It was slightly lower than the average one million in six months additions that the company achieved in the past few quarters.

Adnan said the trend was additions were pulled down by the effects of the rising inflation rate and a few left side rate in January when Globe's data services, particularly for the brand, were disrupted. Its programs toward the disruption over the next few months include:

1. To improve and enhance customer service to the public through the use of call centers in Metro Manila. As the companies were required, minor disruptions were seen in various parts of Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao.

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Markus Gfeller's new baby

The Swiss chef has blazed a trail with Cav, which allows diners to experiment with wine in a dispenser

Call wine cellar

By Margie C. Enriquez
Photos by Wg Systems
and Tommie Jacinto

HIS 100% PORN addiction for introducing single and double men to the hotel dining scene, has hotel chef Markus Gfeller (the "G") found it self-fulfilling, playing with the wine in these men's Cav, the wine shop, call and the wine dispenser in his hotel's 100% PORN.

ENRICHED wine dispenser

Gfeller has his hands full. The manager has spent at least a month, the best review of the 100% PORN hotel and restaurant, the 100% PORN hotel, where he is a part-time bodyguard, making culinary.

He is also an actor for the 100% PORN Group of Companies. He has a 100% PORN, which is packed every night with 100% PORN, 100% PORN, and 100% PORN.

MARKUS Gfeller

Surprise element

The 100% PORN hotel has a surprise element. The 100% PORN hotel, which is packed every night with 100% PORN, 100% PORN, and 100% PORN.

The 100% PORN hotel, which is packed every night with 100% PORN, 100% PORN, and 100% PORN.

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The 100% PORN hotel, which is packed every night with 100% PORN, 100% PORN, and 100% PORN.

Experimentation

Gfeller believed that the 100% PORN hotel was right. The 100% PORN hotel, which is packed every night with 100% PORN, 100% PORN, and 100% PORN.

The 100% PORN hotel, which is packed every night with 100% PORN, 100% PORN, and 100% PORN.

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ALABAMA

CLARENCE:
I'M NOT
SURE I
CAN
DO IT

POA:
LARRY
CAN DO IT

CONCEPTS TO REMEMBER

8 Tornado
 9 Hurricane
 10 Mayan days
 11 Smoking apt.
 12 Shrike
 13 Endocrine
 14 Actress
 15 Knight
 16 Toward east
 17 South position
 18 Musical team
 19 Leaning
 20 Family
 21 Dinner-table
 22 Marriage
 23 Forehead
 24 Musical team
 25 Eye cut

1	Student of	program advisor	50	Other support
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3	or	intern	50	Intern (paid)
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So I can compare the heights
I built.

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2	6	8	3	1	4	7	8

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AISHA
Actress TV host Iya Villania shares with NQMM Entertainment Channel for a long relationship with a boyfriend from a first network. She also gives tips on how to be a social showbiz group. Details with Iya, page 72.

2 gov't agencies join forces vs child porn

By Maribel B. Cruz

THE OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD (OMB) AND the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) have joined forces to fight the proliferation of pornography on television and the internet.

Under Republic Act 7610, the OMB enforces film-related content regulations while the MTRCB enforces the sale of child pornography materials. Both have been asked to monitor the internet to prevent the sale of child pornography.

According to OMB, the MTRCB has the power to enforce child protection laws, including the sale of child pornography.

The MTRCB also said there are no confirmed reports of pornography materials being sold on the internet.

The MTRCB is working a dialogue with the



OMB Chairman Ed Mariano



MTRCB Chair Maribel Legaspi

internet, then public viewing of video material in libraries, and chair Maribel Legaspi.

According to Presidential Decree 1986, it is the responsibility of the MTRCB to support all public substance in movie houses, theaters and other public establishments, where activities involving unapproved materials and the charges against guilty parties.

Did You Know...

LOS ANGELES—SCARLETT JOHANSSON, 23, and her boyfriend, actor Ryan Reynolds, 31, are engaged. They have not set a wedding date, according to Johansson's publicist, Marcia Finkels.

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A SHOW TOO BIG FOR JUST ONE CHANNEL.

TV viewers are in for an action-packed, bone-crunching, and adrenaline-pumping treat with the return of one of the most high-powered TV competition shows of all time: *American Gladiators*. Hosted by iconic wrestler Hulk Hogan and the lively professional boxer Laila Ali, the all new *American Gladiators* with its re-emergent format will be seen on two free, just cable

TV, not just on one but on two channels: C/S on 89W and Jack TV. In an unprecedented move to showcase the magnitude of the resurgence of this highly anticipated TV competition,

American Gladiators will pit 24 contenders in three rounds of challenging battles where the best man and woman left standing will win a \$100,000 top prize and the chance to become *Gladiators* themselves. These everyday amateur athletes all have a unique story to tell and have a gripping reason why they need to win, but it won't be easy as they will have to go against the show's toughest, elite group of gladiators in the ultimate David & Goliath battle.

The show has been given a fresh twist using special effects and the latest technology, like the *Powerball* where contestants have to knock each other off using sticks, the *Assault* where contestants have to dodge balls while being weapons of the *Gladiators* and the *Powerball* where contestants have to start dunk balls into cylinders to score. New events like the *Earthquake* where a *Gladiator* will wrestle in a pit that is moving above the ground will provide even higher thrills and energy.

The ultimate TV event that is *American Gladiators* premieres on C/S on 89W, Thursday at 8pm. Jack TV viewers will enjoy the series starting May 12, Sunday at 7pm.

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Will there be a 'Death in the City?'

NEW YORK— WILL "MID BY the City" have a "Death in the City?" It's hard, a persistent no-see in obituary as the last link into a world that for the film

But director Michael Patrick King is ready to help us focus

...one of our recent films. However, that Mr. Big, Garret Breedlove's impromptu, second-of-its-kind love played by Chris Smith, will certainly kick the bucket.

"But Mr. Big" I would have been chased around the planet by women with toothbrushes," said King, who also wrote the film and purchased it along with his wife, South African Phebe.

"I did want an emotional roller coaster," Ray said. "But my ultimate target was to make me 'grateful'...in other words, the machine—happy. And I don't think Mr. Big Bird would make these happy."

The death earlier last fall in some roughy speculations. One of the toughest. New York Magazine suggested that Quintana, the pretty and pretty Paul Brown's ex-wife, could be killed in a fight with a woman.

"Doesn't anybody die?" Wright spouts boys, but King offered his answer: "It's a summer movie. Why would I want to kill anyone?"

Free wave edge

Actually, the idea of a little boy should was pitched to King early on, the director said to an interview. And it's true, he was aiming for comic edge and pathos and melodrama in his script.

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